

ECCBA League Fixture 3

Hertfordshire v Norfolk

Applecroft School, Welwyn Garden City – Sunday 9th February 2025

Our third league fixture of the season was the rearranged home fixture, at Applecroft School against Norfolk. The team chosen to represent us was as follows.

H1	H2	H3
1. Ron Hart 2. Mick Cook 3. Ollie Mercer-Smith 4. Craig Hearn	1. James Warren 2. Gary Young 3. Lisa Edmead 4. Neil Tuckey	1. Emma Thurley 2. Andy Cobbold 3. Thomas Ellis 4. Rebecca Hearn
H4	H5	H6
1. Marilyn Cook 2. Dave Smith 3. Simon Missing 4. Pete Cook	1. Amy Missing 2. Jo Hilson 3. Stuart Mcneil 4. Matt Thurley	1. Rosemary Biggs 2. David Danby 3. Jack Smalley 4. Jason Ellis

During the day, the odd numbered teams would play at the same time and the even numbered teams would play at the same time.

Session 1

H3 made the best start of the three teams, they won the first five ends and surged into a 13-0 lead. They lost three of the last four ends but that was inconsequential to the final outcome as they won 14-4. H1 won their match by a remarkably similar scoreline (14-5), but this game was far from comfortable. They won the first end but lost the next three to fall 5-1 behind. A four on the 5th end proved crucial as it not only brought them level in the match but helped them wrestle momentum, they won the remaining four ends to secure the win. H5 got off to a flying start, leading 5-0 after two ends. They dominated the next few ends too but some incredible bowls from the Norfolk skipped kept them in the game, the tide slowly started to turn against us and Norfolk but a run of winning ends together to take the match 9-5.

Session Score
Herts 4-2 Norfolk

Match Score
Herts 4-2 Norfolk

Session 2

H2 got off to a strong start in their match, winning three of the first four ends to open up an 8-1 lead. They dropped six shots over the next four ends to put the game in jeopardy taking a single shot lead into the final end. They kept their nerve and were building a good head when unfortunately for Norfolk, they knocked the jack off. Those two shots secured a 10-7 win. A similar story for H4 who also made a strong start, opening up a 9-3 lead after six ends. A poor 7th end resulted in them dropping a five to bring the score to 9-8. They kept

their composure to reply with a count of three on the 8th end to open up a four shot advantage, before controlling the last end to take a 12-9 win. In a similar story to the other two teams, H6 also made a good start. They established a 6-1 lead after 4 ends. A four and a single on the next two ends for their opponents levelled the match up at 6-6. They took the lead with a two on the 7th end but lost a single on the 8th and two on the 9th to lose the match 8-9.

Session Score
Herts 4-2 Norfolk

Match Score
Herts 8-4 Norfolk

Session 3

Some great bowls from H3 allowed them to pick up a six on the 2nd end and a five on the 5th end to take a 14-0 lead. The ends were shared after that as they eased away to an impressive 17-5 win. H1 completely controlled their game, they never picked up a big count (more than three) but scored on every end to shut their opponents out and take a 16-0 victory. In a similar pattern to the other games, it was our team that started the strongest opening up a 6-1 lead after four ends. Ends were exchanged from that point onwards with their opponents never getting closer than within three, final score being 9-5.

At the halfway point in the day, we had established a 14-4 lead. Norfolk were battling hard and we knew we would have to keep up our level of performance if we wanted to extend our lead.

Session Score
Herts 6-0 Norfolk

Match Score
Herts 14-4 Norfolk

Session 4

All three games in this session were very close. H2 got off to a great start, picking up a four on the first end. It's lucky they did, as they only scored a single shot over then next six ends with the score level at 5-5 after seven ends. They managed to do enough to pick up singles on the 8th and 9th ends to earn an important 7-5 win. H4 picked up a single on the first end, but then lost the next three to fall 6-1 behind. The momentum of the game shifted on the next end as the Norfolk number three unfortunately took the jack off. We won the next three ends to open up a 10-6 lead, which we were able to defend, dropping a single on the last end to take a 10-7 win. Finally, H6 scored a two, three and then a four to open up a commanding 9-0 lead after just three ends. Their opponents come back at them hard, winning the next five ends to level the math at 9-9 playing the last. We managed to get over the line with a two on the last end to take an 11-9 win.

Session Score
Herts 6-0 Norfolk

Match Score
Herts 20-4 Norfolk

Session 5

As a lot of our teams had done for much of the day H1 made a good start, leading 4-0 after three ends. Consecutive threes for their opponents saw us fall 6-4 behind. We responded brilliantly, winning the remaining four ends to take an 11-6 win. H3 were 3-0 after the first

end and lead 5-2 after four ends. Three consecutive lost ends and they were 7-5 down with two to play. A single on the 8th end kept them in with a shout and a great last end to pick up two shots and take a good 8-7 win. H5 exchanged winning ends with their opponents for the first six trailing 6-5. A four on the 7th end looked like it could be critical as they now trailed 10-5 with just two to play. Miraculously, they responded with a six of their own to take a one shot lead into the last end, where they controlled the end to take a three and with it a 14-10 win.

We had now won three consecutive sessions 6-0, to take a 26-4 lead in the match. A winning final session would see us move to the top of the ECCBA league table.

Session Score
Herts 6-0 Norfolk

Match Score
Herts 26-4 Norfolk

Session 6

H4 whilst never completely pulling away from their opponents, were in front from the beginning and for the most part always a few shots in front. They took a five shot lead into the final end which they were able to defend securing a 7-4 win. H2 were involved in a very tight low scoring game. The lead exchanged hands several times, they found themselves 5-4 behind playing the last end. They worked their way to a match lie (holding two), but the Norfolk skip played the perfect draw with his last bowl to take shot and the match with a 6-4 scoreline. H6 were always playing catchup in their game after dropping a three on the first end. That gap was maintained with the score 5-8 after six ends, but they were not able to score again till the final end, picking up a two but by that time their opponents lead by six, final score a 7-11 loss.

Session Score
Herts 2-4 Norfolk

Match Score
Herts 28-8 Norfolk

A disappointing final session, but a scoreline we would have taken at the start of the day and when we lead just 8-4 after the second session.

The individual team performances are displayed below:

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Points
H1	3	3	0	0	41	11	6
H2	3	2	0	1	21	18	4
H3	3	3	0	0	39	16	6
H4	3	3	0	0	29	20	6
H5	3	2	0	1	28	24	4
H6	3	1	0	2	26	29	2
Total	18	14	0	4	184	118	28

Our next fixture is a top of the table game away to Essex.

League Table

Place	Team	Played	Won	Drew	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Hertfordshire	3	2	1	0	529	383	74
2	Essex	3	3	0	0	487	353	74
3	Suffolk	3	2	1	0	500	374	67
4	Cambridgeshire	3	1	0	2	439	445	54
5	Norfolk	3	0	0	3	363	491	33
6	Bedfordshire	3	0	0	3	318	590	22

Fixtures & Results

24 th November 2024		
Essex	23-13	Cambridgeshire
Norfolk	12-24	Suffolk
Bedfordshire	8-28	Hertfordshire
8 th December 2024		
Cambridgeshire	11-25	Suffolk
Essex	28-8	Bedfordshire
19 th January 2025		
Suffolk	18-18	Hertfordshire
Norfolk	13-23	Essex
Bedfordshire	6-30	Cambridgeshire
9 th February 2025		
Hertfordshire	28-8	Norfolk
16 th February 2025		
Essex	V	Hertfordshire
Cambridgeshire	V	Norfolk
Suffolk	V	Bedfordshire
16 th March 2025		
Suffolk	V	Essex
Hertfordshire	V	Cambridgeshire
Norfolk	V	Bedfordshire